

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 12296 111349Z
ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 /020 W
-----044989 111353Z /64
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3351

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 12296

DEPARTMENT PASS: AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN, AND NEA/INS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPOP IN
SUBJECT: INDIA'S FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

REF: STATE 202519

1. TEXT OF APPEAL BY PRIME MINISTER DESAI TO CHIEF
MINISTERS OF STATES REPRODUCED BELOW:

QUOTE YOU WOULD RECALL THAT I HAD WRITTEN TO YOU ON THE 9TH
MAY, 1978 TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY PLANNING
PROGRAMME. WE MUST ENSURE THAT NO EROSION TAKES PLACE IN OUR
ECONOMIC GAINS ON ACCOUNT OF UNLIMITED POPULATION GROWTH.

I HAVE SINCE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE
WORKING OF THE PROGRAMME. I FEEL CONCERNED AT THE VERY LOW
PERFORMANCE DURING THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR. THE REPORTS FOR THE
MONTHS OF APRIL AND MAY 1978 REVEAL A DISQUIETING, EVEN
DISTURBING, SITUATION. THE PERFORMANCE ACHIEVED DURING
THESE MONTHS HAS BEEN LOWER THAN THAT IN APRIL AND MAY 1977.
INDICATIONS FOR JUNE ARE NO BETTER; AND IT WOULD NOT BE
SURPRISING IF THE JUNE FIGURES ARE EVEN LOWER THAN
THOSE OF APRIL AND MAY.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT DESPITE ALL THE STRESS BEING LAID ON
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THIS PROGRAMME, IT HAS NOT GENERATED THE ZEAL AND ENTHUSIASM
REQUIRED FOR ITS SUCCESS. WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS STATE OF
AFFAIRS TO CONTINUE WITHOUT JEOPARDY TO ALL OUR
DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORTS. I WOULD THEREFORE, LIKE TO EMPHASIZE
ONCE AGAIN THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO PAY
PERSONAL ATTENTION TO THE MONITORING OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS
PROGRAMME. I AM DISTRESSED TO KNOW THAT IN SOME CASES,

DOCTORS WERE RELUCTANT TO UNDERTAKE STERILISATION
OPERATIONS EVEN THOUGH PERSONS HAD VOLUNTARILY
OFFERED TO UNDERGO THEM. IF DOCTORS HAVE ANY APPREHENSIONS
OF THE POSSIBLE INQUIRIES BEING HELD IN THE EVENT OF
CASES RESULTING IN COMPLICATIONS, THEY SHOULD BE ASSURED
THAT THEY WOULD ENJOY THE SAME PROTECTION WHICH THE LAW
AFFORDS TO THEM IN THEIR PROFESSION EXCEPT IN THOSE CASES
WHERE THERE IS PROOF OF NEGLIGENCE OF DUTY.

THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMME SHOULD, THEREFORE RECEIVE FULL
ATTENTION OF ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AT ALL LEVELS AND
SHOULD NOT BE LEFT ONLY TO THE FUNCTIONARIES OF
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENTS. FOR THIS PURPOSE,
YOU SHOULD ENSURE THAT ALL DEPARTMENTS INTEGRATE THIS
ACTIVITY INTO THEIR SCOPE OF NORMAL WORK.

I WANT TO REVIEW THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS PROGRAMME FROM
TIME TO TIME.

I WOULD, THEREFORE, BE THANKFUL TO YOU IF YOU WOULD HOLD
MONTHLY MEETINGS TO REVIEW THE WORK AND WRITE TO ME
ABOUT THE PROGRESS BEING MADE IN THIS WORK UNQUOTE.

2. THE TEXT AND COMMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPORTED IN
NEW DELHI USAID AIRGRAM A-23 OF AUGUST 4,1978.

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Disposition History: n/a
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